

STUDENT NAME

ROADMAP TO COLLEGE!

A PRE-GUIDE ABOUT GOING TO
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



PRODUCED BY
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF MINORITY AFFAIRS & DIVERSITY
GEAR UP PROGRAM



Current as of September 2012

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU HAVE DECIDED TO GO TO COLLEGE!

THIS ROADMAP TO COLLEGE WILL HELP YOU AND YOUR PARENTS PREPARE FOR YOUR JOURNEY TO COLLEGE.

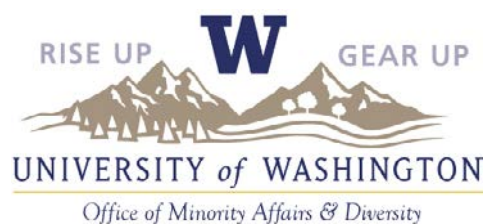
START NOW
– MUCH NEEDS TO
BE DONE IN HIGH
SCHOOL TO PREPARE
FOR COLLEGE



DEAR EDUCATOR,

This Roadmap to College booklet is produced by the University of Washington RISE UP GEAR UP Program. This Roadmap can be used by GEAR UP students who plan to attend a two-year college, a four-year university or a technical school after high school graduation. This booklet provides a general college preparation guide for students to use throughout middle and high school. Keep in mind that only the major steps are included in this Roadmap. Additional planning must be done by each student and their parents; however this Roadmap to College will get them started in the right direction. For all the necessary steps to prepare for college, students should consult their high school counselor and the admissions office of the college they plan to attend.

RGI Corporation developed this booklet for the University of Washington RISE UP GEAR UP Program. Evaluators at RGI Corporation surveyed GEAR UP students at participating high schools to ask which college, university or technical school they would be interested in attending. Based on the survey results, RGI Corporation developed Roadmap to College booklets for the top 10 chosen schools. These include the University of Washington, Washington State University, Yakima Valley Community College, Western Washington University, Gonzaga University, Central Washington University, Skagit Valley College, the Art Institute of Seattle, Seattle University and Harvard University.



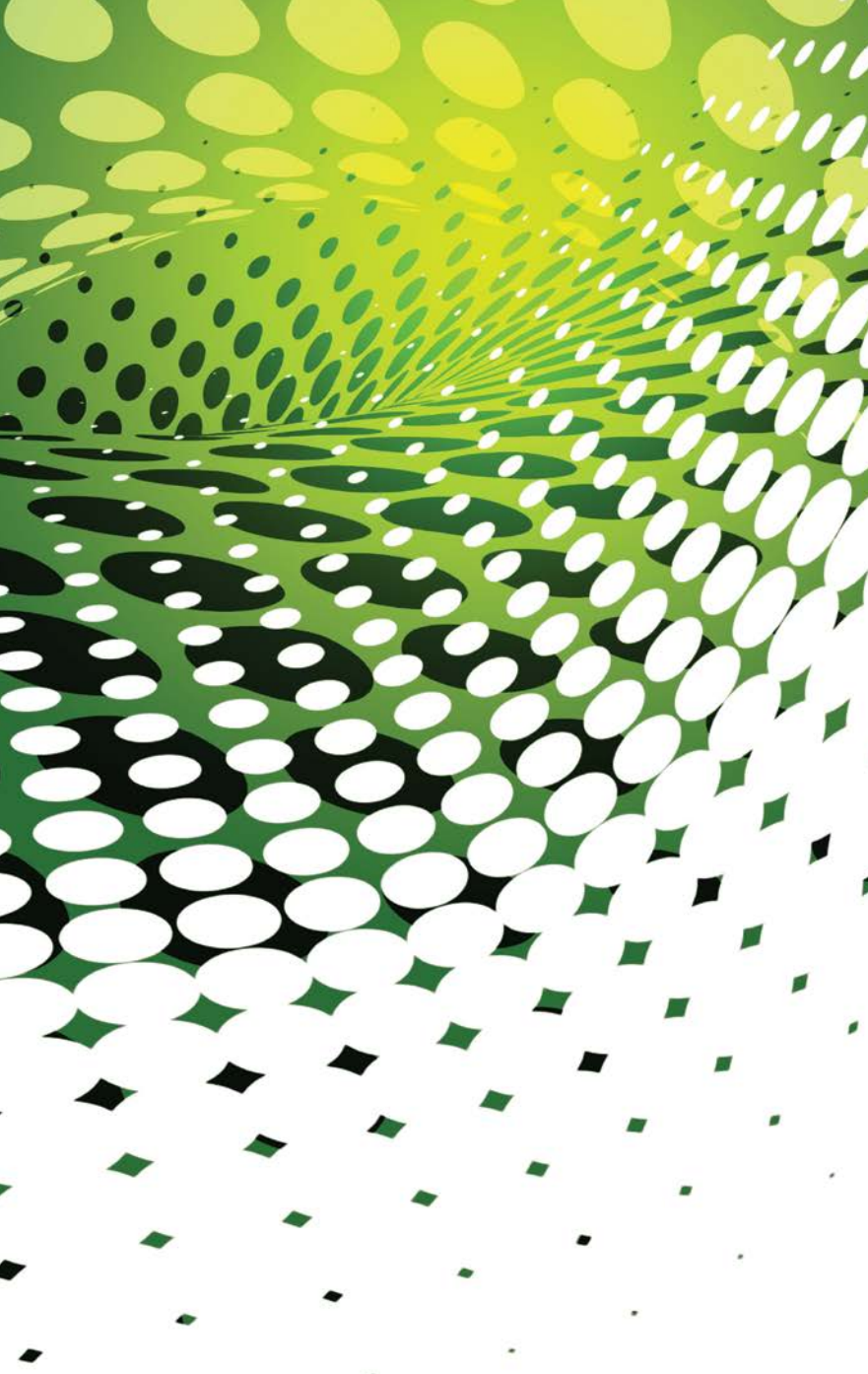


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INFORMATION IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING

High school graduation and college application/admission requirements may change every year based on new laws and policies. Information in this booklet is current as of September 2012. However, for the most current and accurate information, please consult your high school counselor and the college of your choice. RGI Corporation has conferred with representatives from each college/university and has reviewed each school's website to obtain the most current and accurate information.

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DEAR STUDENT,

We have provided this Roadmap to College for you to use when preparing to go to a college, university or technical school. The steps you need to take to get to college can be complicated and information isn't always found in one place. All the necessary information has been compiled in this booklet to provide you with a Roadmap to College.

You and your parents can use this booklet to plan your journey to college. Planning to go to college can start in middle school, but must start in high school. To be able to attend the college of your choice, you must know how to apply and how to show them you are the best match for their college.

GEAR UP Program



Things you should know about.....

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON (UW)

UW COMMUNITY

The University of Washington recruits the best, most diverse and innovative faculty and staff from around the world, encouraging a vibrant intellectual community for their students. The UW links academic excellence to cutting-edge research through scholarly exploration and intellectual rigor. They hold themselves to the highest standards of ethics, as a beacon for their community and the world. UW educators strive to inspire through education that emphasizes the power of discovery and the foundation of critical and analytic thinking. They foster creativity, challenge the boundaries of knowledge and cultivate independence of mind through unique interdisciplinary partnerships. The UW has grown into the most successful public research university in the nation in attracting support for their research. These are some of the reasons why the UW is ranked among the world's top 16 universities. In addition to the main campus in Seattle, the UW has branch campuses in Tacoma and Bothell as well.

SAMPLE FIELDS OF STUDY (Over 150 Offered)

College of Arts & Sciences

College of Built Environments

School of Business Administration

School of Dentistry

College of Education

College of Engineering

College of the Environment

The Information School

School of Law

School of Medicine

School of Nursing

College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences

School of Public Health and Community Medicine

School of Social Work

The University of Washington has over 150 different programs in which students can study and major. REMEMBER, select a major that inspires you and that you enjoy! For a complete list of UW majors, visit their website at www.admit.washington.edu/AcaLife/Majors.

DISTINCTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

- Six UW faculty members have won Nobel Prizes.
- Since the first national survey of nursing schools was conducted in 1984, the UW School of Nursing has been ranked #1.
- In 2012, the Academic Ranking of World Universities placed the UW 16th in the world's top universities.
- The UW Libraries received the 2004 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, which recognizes the top university research library in the country.
- The UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences is the largest and most diverse fisheries program in the nation.
- The UW is the nation's #1 supplier of new technical employees to both Microsoft and Intel.
- A recent Success Magazine survey of the "Top 25 Business Schools for Entrepreneurship" placed the UW Business School's entrepreneurship program 12th, ahead of Stanford, MIT and Harvard.
- UW faculty members have received 15 fellowships from the MacArthur Foundation, the so-called "Genius Awards."
- Since 1974, the UW has received more federal research funding than any other public university in the nation.

THINGS TO CONSIDER...

Main Campus Location: Seattle, WA (population: 620,778)

Student to Faculty Ratio: Approximately 10 to 1

Cost of Tuition (includes required fees): \$12,383 / year (may increase annually)

Room and Board (if staying in Dorm): \$9,969 – \$13,812 / year (may increase annually)

Academic Resources: Undergraduate Advising, Counseling Center, Career Center, Instructional Center, Ethnic Cultural Center, Libraries, Tutoring, Computer Labs, etc.

Husky Athletics: WOMEN – Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, Soccer, Gymnastics, Tennis, Track and Field, Crew, Golf and Cross Country. MEN – Football, Basketball, Baseball, Soccer, Tennis, Track and Field, Cross Country, Crew and Golf.

Local Entertainment: Pike Place Market, Seattle Aquarium, Seattle Pacific Science Center, the Space Needle at Seattle Center, Seattle Sporting Events (Football, Baseball, Hockey, Soccer, Women's Basketball & Roller Derby), Experience Music Project, Woodland Park Zoo, Green Lake, Lake Washington, many diners, shopping malls, theaters, museums, etc.

WHO GOES TO THE UW?

43,307 students are enrolled

52% are Women

48% are Men

6% are Hispanic/Latino

51% are Caucasian

1% are American Indian

23% are Asian American/Pacific Islander

3% are African American

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ One of the world's top 16 universities
- ✓ Located in Seattle
- ✓ Cost of Tuition & Fees: \$12,383 / year (may increase annually)
- ✓ The UW offers over 150 different programs of study.
- ✓ The UW and its faculty have received many prestigious awards.

For more information about the University of Washington, visit their website at www.washington.edu.



MIDDLE SCHOOL:

TAKING THE CHALLENGE

As a middle school student, you should do the following...

Middle school is a time of your life when you're curious about the world around you and you try to discover your true self. You have moved from childhood to adolescence and you're ready to explore. High school graduation may seem like it's a long way off, but it's really just around the corner. The choices you make in middle school will help you succeed in high school...and in college. It's time to start thinking about your future. You can do anything or be anything you want if you start planning now. The decisions you make will have a big impact on your college and career options. During middle school, you should challenge yourself and take courses that will transfer to high school. For example, you could take Spanish and Algebra. This will prepare you for college and give you a head start on high school credits. REMEMBER, it's never too early to begin your quest for knowledge. Your school may have you complete a Career Inventory survey (a test designed to help you identify careers that match your interests and abilities). Take advantage of the Career Inventory results list and research the careers that seem interesting to you.





Job Shadow

Once you take the Career Inventory survey and you have a better idea of what type of jobs interest you, it is a good idea to start thinking about job shadow opportunities. A job shadow is an activity designed to give students an up-close look at the normal workday of a professional. For example, a student would observe a nurse taking a patient's vital signs and would look at the chart notes. This provides students with an idea of how skills learned in school relate to the workforce and also helps them determine if they may be interested in this field.

Preparing for High School

Taking that big step to high school can be quite stressful for students. High school students struggle with peer groups, personal identity and academics. Don't forget to maintain your study habits in high school in order to be academically successful. Also, it is crucial that you learn about high school graduation requirements and begin thinking about college or other postsecondary schools. Your high school grade point average (GPA) is cumulative, which means they take the overall average of your grades. With this in mind, your freshmen grades are just as important as the other years' when you are applying for college. Avoid failing a class because it will affect you later on.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ During middle school, take challenging courses (e.g., Spanish and Algebra)
- ✓ Take a Career Inventory survey
- ✓ Look up job shadow opportunities in a career field that interests you
- ✓ Prepare yourself for high school (maintain study habits and learn about high school graduation requirements)

HIGH SCHOOL: LIFE AND REALITY

Graduating from high school can be a bit overwhelming, but it's a major accomplishment. As you progress through high school, you will make choices that affect your goals, in positive or negative ways. It is important to stay focused and on track. This is the most important time to speak with your high school counselor, if you're not already doing so. Counselors receive important information from college representatives that may help you achieve your career goals. Also, keeping in contact with your counselor will ensure that you are on track for graduating.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

High school graduation requirements vary from school to school, but they must all meet state standards in order for a student to receive a high school diploma. Check with your high school counselor to learn what your school's requirements are. The following high school requirements are for those students who are graduating in the 2012-2013 school year.

1. Complete High School Credits

Every high school has a minimum number of credits you need to complete in order to graduate. Ask your counselor how many credits you need to earn to graduate. If you pass all of your classes (9-12th grade), you should have more than enough credits to graduate on time.

2. Complete a High School and Beyond Plan (5-Year Plan)

The High School and Beyond Plan gets all students thinking about their future and how to get the most out of high school. It also helps students plan for higher education and for choosing a career. Ideally, students develop their plan in 8th or 9th grade and then continue to revise it throughout high school to accommodate changing interests and goals. Students are encouraged to include the following elements in their plan: their personal story (what interests them, what experiences have changed the person they are now and who they want to become); their learning style; their goals for high school (including classes, extracurricular activities, sports, a job, etc.) and what they plan to do after high school. Each school district determines specific guidelines for the High School and Beyond Plan. Ask your high school counselor for a copy of the guidelines established for your school.

3. Complete a Culminating Project (Senior Project)

In the State of Washington, students are required to complete a Culminating Project during their senior year in order to graduate from high school. These projects encourage students to think analytically, logically and creatively and to integrate experiences and knowledge to solve problems effectively. The Senior Project allows students a chance to explore a topic that interests them and the opportunity to apply their learning in a "real world" way. As part of the Culminating Project, each student will demonstrate essential skills through reading, writing, speaking, production and/or performance. To complete the project, students may be asked to write a research paper, work with a mentor in school or in the community, present to a community or peer panel, pull together a portfolio of work and/or develop a multimedia presentation. Washington State determines the overall guidelines for developing a Culminating Project; however each school district has their own guidelines as well. Students should meet with their high school counselor to discuss specific requirements for their school.

4. Pass State Assessments (High School Proficiency Exam and End-of-Course Exam)

Another high school graduation requirement is for students to pass two specific state exams, namely the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) and the End-of-Course (EOC) Exam. These assessments measure students' skills and knowledge in reading, writing, math and science. Students in the classes of 2013 and 2014 are required to pass the HSPE in reading and writing and one EOC exam in math. Students who are graduating in 2015 and beyond must pass the HSPE in reading and writing, one EOC exam in science and two EOC exams in math. By passing these exams students receive their Certificate of Academic Achievement indicating they have mastered a minimum standard of reading, writing and math skills by graduation. Talk with your school counselor to ensure you have completed this requirement.



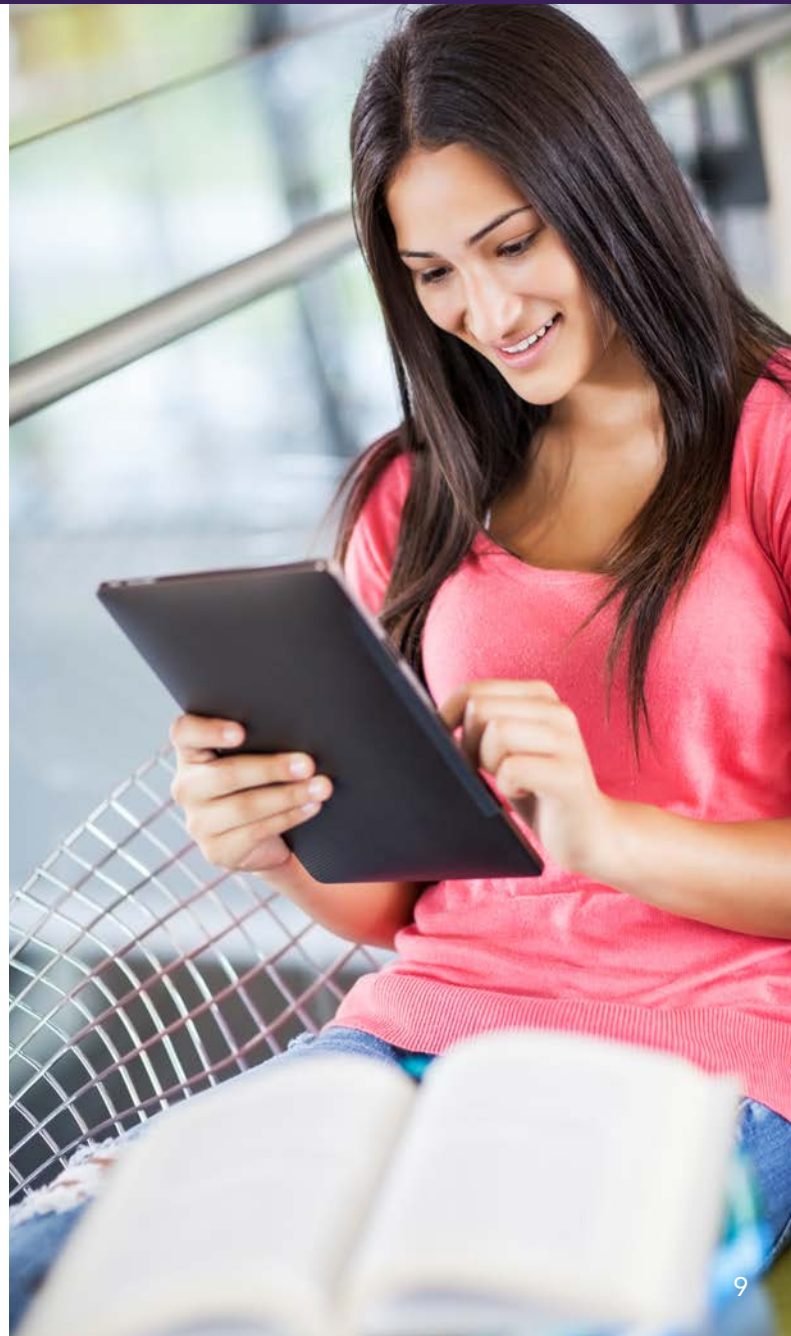
BE A STEP AHEAD

Colleges will be more impressed by respectable grades in challenging courses than by outstanding grades in easy ones. Here is a way you can make your college applications stand out above the rest...

Advanced Placement (AP) / International Baccalaureate (IB): These are college level courses that are given in high school. Depending on your school district, you may have a few classes or more to choose from. These classes count towards your graduation requirements, and if you pass the AP exam with a qualifying score, then you may also receive college credit. This will benefit you by reducing the amount of credits you need to complete in order to graduate from college. If you want your college of choice to receive your exam scores, remember to add them as recipients when you take the test. You do not have to take the exam if you choose not to get college credit. There is a fee you need to pay if you decide to take the exam, but there are waivers available for those who qualify. For more information on Advanced Placement courses, ask your counselor.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Know your high school requirements
- ✓ Complete your High School and Beyond Plan
- ✓ Complete your Culminating Project
- ✓ Pass the state assessments (HSPE and EOC)
- ✓ Take challenging courses (AP/IB)



High School Graduation Requirements VS. University of Washington's Admission Requirements

The credits you need to graduate high school may differ from the University of Washington admission requirements, so it is important to make sure you fulfill both requirements. Compare your high school's requirements to the UW's and determine what courses you need to take beyond those needed for high school graduation. In the table below, you will see the state of Washington's high school graduation requirements for the class of 2013. There is a section where you can add the number of credits required by your school district. You will also see the credits needed to apply for admission at the UW. It is essential that you meet all UW admission requirements in order to be considered for enrollment.

	WA State Graduation Requirements (Credits)	Your High School Graduation Requirements	University of Washington Admission Requirements (Credits)	What you need beyond high school requirements to apply to the UW
English	3		4	
Social Studies/History	2.5		3	
Math	3		3★	
Science	2		2★★	
Fine, Visual or Performing Arts	1		.5★★★	
Vocational	1		N/A	
Health/P.E.	2		N/A	
Academic Electives	5.5		.5	
Foreign Language	N/A		2★★★★	
Senior Year Math-based Quantitative Course	N/A		1★★★★★	

★ Must include at least Algebra, Geometry and Algebra II / Advanced Algebra.

★★ Applicant must have at least two years of laboratory science. At least one of the two years must be in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Additionally, at least one of the two years must be an algebra-based lab science course.

★★★ Applicants must complete one-half credit in Fine, Visual or Performing Arts, or an additional credit of English, Social Studies, Math, Science or Foreign Language.

★★★★ Applicants need to have two years of the same Foreign Language (e.g., Spanish, German) and progress through a second-year level course. The Foreign Language requirement will be waived if applicant has completed their education through the 7th grade where English was not the language of instruction (e.g., student attended Mexico schools until the 8th grade).

★★★★★ This requirement is for freshman applicants only. One credit of math-based quantitative coursework is required in the senior year. This requirement may be met in many ways:

- If the third year of the minimum math requirements is being completed in the senior year, such as intermediate algebra (AlgebraII) or Integrated Math III
- Completing an advanced level math course (Pre-Calculus, Math Analysis, Calculus)
- Completing a math-based quantitative course (Statistics)
- Completing an algebra-based science course (Chemistry, Physics)

In some cases, a single course may fulfill two requirements. For example, a chemistry course with a lab that is taken during your senior year can count towards the lab science requirement and the senior year math-based quantitative course requirement.

ASK YOUR COUNSELOR FOR A COPY OF YOUR 5-YEAR PLAN

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

If you haven't been involved in extracurricular activities before, it's important that you get involved in high school. This is essential to your success, not only in applying for admissions to your college of choice, but also for scholarship applications. You could begin by joining clubs, sports or your ASB. Colleges want to know how active you have been in high school. They not only want to know how successful you are academically, but also how you are around your peers, school and community. Try to be involved, but not so much that it negatively impacts your grades.

Remember, not only are colleges going to ask what your community and school involvement has been, but scholarship applications want to know this as well. Below are a few examples of ways you can get involved.

Community Service

Community service is when someone goes into the community and volunteers where there is a need. For example, you can volunteer at your local food bank or senior center. Find out what your community has to offer and what you have to offer them. Look for something you are passionate about so you can enjoy your time there and use your skills to improve your community. It's alright if you do not like your first choice; take it as a learning experience and search for another activity that will help you grow. You can also ask other students what volunteer work they have done. This will help you find other opportunities for community service.

Summer Programs

Some colleges/universities have summer programs that target career fields that may be of interest to students. This helps students determine if the field they're interested in is truly the area they want to pursue. During the summer programs, students get an opportunity to conduct hands-on activities, take college courses and do job shadows. Most summer programs require students to stay on campus, giving them the opportunity to experience the dorm-life. You can ask a representative from the college/university or your high school counselor for more information about these programs.

Internships

An internship is similar to job shadowing, but in an internship you actually place yourself in the role of a working professional. You get the experience of how your work-life would be if you chose that career. For example, a student would not only observe the nurse taking patients' vitals, but would actually take the vital signs themselves. One of the best advantages of internships is when you need letters of recommendation or references, you can ask this organization because they will know your interests, abilities and work skills.

Campus Visit

It's important to register for campus visits because you want to see what student life will be like at different colleges. Take a tour of campus and the surrounding area to find out what the college has to offer. Explore the libraries, classrooms and housing options. You will also want to meet with an advisor to review the admissions/registration process and to learn about any additional requirements for your major of interest. Advisors can answer questions you have regarding freshman year, class size, tuition and fees, financial aid, academic resources and the surrounding community. Also, talk to students enrolled at the college to learn about the faculty, student-life, local entertainment and what they like or dislike about the school.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Be involved in school and your community
- ✓ Sign up for summer programs (explore different career fields and have a college-life experience)
- ✓ Complete an internship (have the opportunity to do hands-on work)
- ✓ Register for campus visits (learn about campus-life, academics and available resources)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Definition

A scholarship is money given to you by private individuals, businesses or organizations that does not need to be paid back to them. However, many scholarships have special requirements students must meet to be eligible for the award. These scholarships can pay for tuition, housing, food, transportation, books, supplies and other educational expenses. Some scholarship applications have academic or other standards that students must meet in order to continue receiving the funds. Students are not required to pay the money back after they complete their education.

Requirements for Scholarships

Application Form(s): When completing scholarship applications, it is important that you write clearly or type your answers. Many scholarship donors have online applications which benefit both students and themselves. Make sure you complete everything properly with no errors. Remember to double check everything and have someone review it to make sure you answered all the questions correctly.

Essays: Many scholarships require students to write an essay. In order to have a strong essay, students must include originality, goals and honesty, and an explanation as to why they deserve the funds. Remember that it takes time to create a strong essay, so don't rush it. It also helps if you ask someone to give you feedback and check for grammar and mistakes.

Letters of Recommendation/References: When scholarships ask for letters of recommendation or references, make sure you ask someone who truly knows you. Unfortunately, many students feel that it's important the letter come from their high school principal or counselor. However, if they don't really know your skills, goals and personality, how are they going to write a strong letter of recommendation? Ask someone who has known you for at least a year or more. You want them to be able to write a unique letter, not just cut and paste from another letter. Most importantly, give them time to write the recommendation, not just a couple of hours. Remember, this is a very important piece of your application, so do not rush it.



EXAMPLE OF A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

GATES HIGH SCHOOL

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the distinct pleasure of having Joe Smith as a student in my calculus class. Joe has been more than the ideal student. In order to achieve the highest grades and my deepest respect, he has demonstrated outstanding leadership and has maintained a clear sense of purpose.

The academics at Gates High are most challenging, and Joe fulfilled all the requirements with the added challenge of honors and Advanced Placement courses. Joe is an outstanding improvisational speaker and advocate. He has won many awards in football and math tournaments.

Because of his natural leadership abilities, Joe was selected as our ASB president. Due to his mature approach to his responsibilities, I often thought of Joe as more of a colleague than a student. His classmates, my fellow teachers and I will always hold him in the highest esteem. Therefore, I sincerely recommend Joe Smith as the ideal candidate for the Most Impact Scholarship. If you need me to furnish you with additional information, please call me at (555) 555-5555. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Smith

Calculus Teacher

EXAMPLE OF A **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

WASHINGTON STATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

Application and Guidelines:

Purpose: To award senior high school students who have shown leadership and strength in overcoming great obstacles throughout their lives with a \$7,000 scholarship.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Be enrolled as a high school senior, on track for graduation, and planning to attend a college or university after high school graduation;
- Be committed to pursuing a bachelor's degree at a four-year university (those who transfer from a two-year institution to a four-year institution are also eligible);
- Demonstrate extreme financial need;
- Be involved in extracurricular activities in their school and community;
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0; and
- Be a resident of Washington State

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- **Letter of Support** – Please have one letter of support, written by someone who knows you very well, addressing your academic performance and commitment, community and school involvement and your ability to overcome hardships.
- **Eligibility Form** – Have your parents and your school principal or vice principal sign the eligibility form, stating that all eligibility requirements have been met.
- **Completed Scholarship Application**
- **Official High School Transcript**
- **Copy of Parents' Federal Tax Return**

Submit completed application packet to:

Washington State Student Leadership Scholarship
23775 4th Pl. Bldg. B
San Francisco, WA 98038

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15TH.

Other documents: When scholarships ask for other documents (e.g., official transcript) make sure they're included with your application. Sometimes students have the school personnel mail them, but they may be busy and forget or send it after your application has been submitted. It's better if you take the responsibility of making sure your application is complete and mail it yourself. Remember, you are the one applying for the scholarship.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

MOST CHARITABLE SCHOLARSHIP

Application and Guidelines:

Purpose: To award a senior high school student from a family needing post-secondary scholarship assistance, who has demonstrated a caring and giving attitude toward another individual or community, with a \$5,000 scholarship.

Application Requirements:

TWO (2) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION – Please include one letter from a school representative (such as a counselor, teacher, coach, etc.) addressing your educational commitment, grades or other skills and abilities.

PERSONAL INFORMATION – Write an essay (250 - 300 words) that describes what service to others means to you and how you have benefited from assisting someone else. What did you learn from the experience?

Submit completed application packet to:

Most Charitable Scholarship
1234 5th St.
San Francisco, WA 91011

DEADLINE IS MARCH 30TH.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Make sure you meet all eligibility criteria
- ✓ Know the scholarship deadlines
- ✓ Have someone review your application before you submit it
- ✓ Make sure you include all required documents in your application

WEBSITES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

www.scholarships.com

www.finaid.com

www.fastweb.com

www.wsac.wa.gov

www.collegeboard.com

www.thewashboard.org

www.collegexpress.com/careers-colleges

www.scholarshipexperts.com

www.washington.edu/students/osfa/ugaid/scholarship.html

9TH GRADE PLANNER/CHECKLIST

This is a checklist to use to ensure you are taking steps to prepare for college.

Student Name: _____

Checklist:

- Establish goals for each school year
- Continue/start saving for college
- Meet with counselor (1st semester)
- Take classes recommended for college preparation
- Learn what resources your high school has to offer
- Set regular study hours
- Take challenging courses (AP, honors, etc.)
- Join/continue extracurricular activities (e.g., clubs, sports, etc.)
- Do community service
- Take a Career Inventory survey
- Research careers and colleges
- Become familiar with college entrance requirements and costs
- Apply for scholarships
- Meet with counselor (2nd semester)
- Prepare for the High School Proficiency Exam
- Take the End-of-Course Exam (if applicable)
- Attend college summer programs



1st Quarter Class	Grade	2nd Quarter Class	Grade	3rd Quarter Class	Grade	4th Quarter Class	Grade
Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials	

Activities and Awards: _____

Important Dates:

Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____
 Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____



High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) – 10th grade:

This assessment measures the proficiency of students in high school and serves as one of the state’s exit exams. Students are required to pass this exam in reading and writing, which is administered in the 10th grade, to be eligible to graduate.

End-of-Course (EOC) Exams for Math and Science:

The EOC exam measures proficiency of students in math and science. This assessment isn’t administered at a certain grade level, rather based on students knowledge and skills they’ve gained from specific courses they have completed. Students in the classes of 2013 and 2014 are required to pass one EOC exam in math to be eligible to graduate. Students who are graduating in 2015 and beyond must pass one EOC exam in science and two EOC exams in math to be eligible to graduate.

If you would like to know more about the High School Proficiency Exam or End-of-Course Exam, visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/StateTesting/> for detailed information and a frequently asked questions section.

10TH GRADE PLANNER/CHECKLIST

This is a checklist to use to ensure you are taking steps to prepare for college.

Student Name: _____

Checklist:

- Continue/start saving for college
- Meet with counselor (1st semester)
- Review your high school plans
- Take more challenging classes
- Keep regular study hours
- Ask your counselor about AP/IB exam dates
- Take the High School Proficiency Exam
- Take the End-of-Course Exam (if applicable)
- Take the PSAT
- Join/continue extracurricular activities
- Visit colleges and talk with college students
- Ask your counselor about Running Start
- Research colleges and careers
- Apply for scholarships
- Meet with counselor (2nd semester)
- Do community service



1st Quarter Class	Grade	2nd Quarter Class	Grade	3rd Quarter Class	Grade	4th Quarter Class	Grade
Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials	

Activities and Awards: _____

Important Dates:

Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____
 Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

PSAT Test Date: _____ Time: _____

PSAT, SAT AND ACT

Most colleges and universities require that you take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and/or the American College Test (ACT) and provide them with your scores for their review during the admissions process. They use your scores as one of several factors in making decisions about accepting you into their school. The SAT and ACT measure your skills in areas such as English, math, science, critical reading and writing. You have developed these skills over many years, both in and out of school; they don't require you to recall specific facts from your classes. You can prepare for the SAT by taking the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) during your sophomore or junior year. If you would like your college/university of choice to receive your SAT/ACT scores, you need to add them as recipients at the time of the test. If you forget to do this or if you do not add them, you will have to contact the test center and have them mail your scores at a later date, which can delay your admissions application. A word of advice: add all the universities you are considering applying to – it will save you time later on. The following sections further describe these tests and test taking dates.

PSAT

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT. It also gives you a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools. Another benefit is that you can receive information from colleges/universities when you check "yes" to Student Search Service. The PSAT measures your skills in critical reading, math problem-solving and writing. You can take the PSAT in October of your sophomore or junior year. This test is administered by high schools, not testing centers, so contact your high school counselor for registration and testing dates.

SAT

When applying to a college or university, you may be required to submit your SAT scores. The SAT is a globally recognized college admission test that lets you show colleges what you know and how well you can apply that knowledge. The exam usually takes about 3 hours and 45 minutes to complete and includes three sections: SAT Math (multiple-choice), SAT Critical Reading (multiple-choice) and SAT Writing (includes an essay and multiple-choice questions).

ACT

Again, when applying to a college or university, you may be required to submit your ACT scores. The ACT consists of four multiple-choice tests that measure your skills in English, math, reading and science. It also has an optional writing section for those who would like to complete it. The ACT (No Writing) usually takes about 3 hours to complete, and the ACT Plus Writing takes about 3 ½ hours to complete. Colleges/universities look at your scores to determine your strengths and weaknesses in these subject areas.

REGISTRATION AND TESTING DATES FOR 2012-2013:

SAT - U.S. Registration Deadlines		
Test Dates (2012-2013)	Test	Regular Registration Deadline
October 6, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	September 7, 2012
November 3, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	October 4, 2012
December 1, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	November 1, 2012
January 26, 2013	SAT & Subject Tests	December 28, 2012
March 9, 2013	SAT only	February 8, 2013
May 4, 2013	SAT & Subject Tests	April 5, 2013
June 1, 2013	SAT & Subject Tests	May 2, 2013
For more information or to register online, go to www.sat.collegeboard.org		

ACT - U.S. Registration Deadlines		
Test Dates (2012-2013)	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
October 27, 2012	September 21, 2012	September 22 – October 5, 2012
December 8, 2012	November 2, 2012	November 3 – 16, 2012
February 9, 2013	January 11, 2013	January 12 – 18, 2013
April 13, 2013	March 8, 2013	March 9 – 22, 2013
June 8, 2013	May 3, 2013	May 4 – 17, 2013
For more information or to register online, go to www.actstudent.org		

11TH GRADE PLANNER/CHECKLIST

This is a checklist to use to ensure you are taking steps to prepare for college.

Student Name: _____

Checklist:

- Review your high school plans
- Meet with counselor (1st semester)
- Join an academic club
- Take more challenging classes
- Keep regular study hours
- Continue extracurricular activities
- Create a calendar for testing dates and college/scholarship application deadlines
- Ask your counselor about AP/IB exam dates
- List, compare, and visit colleges
- Investigate scholarship opportunities
- Get a part-time job or internship
- Job shadow in a profession that interests you
- Retake the HSPE / EOC (if required)
- Take the End-of-Course Exam
- Take the SAT and ACT (know the dates)
- Work on raising your GPA
- Meet with counselor to create your senior year schedule (2nd semester)
- Research FAFSA (complete the FAFSA4CASTER)
- Do community service
- Consider possible college majors
- Meet with college representatives
- Start planning your Culminating Project
- Draft your Personal Statement/college essay(s)

1st Quarter Class	Grade	2nd Quarter Class	Grade	3rd Quarter Class	Grade	4th Quarter Class	Grade
Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials	

Activities and Awards: _____

Important Dates:

Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____
 Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

SAT Test Date: _____ Time: _____

ACT Test Date: _____ Time: _____

FAFSA4CASTER

All students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in the 12th grade. The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is the form used by the U.S. Department of Education to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by conducting a “need analysis” based on financial information, such as income, assets and other household information, which you (and your parents if you are a dependent student) will be asked to provide. The form is submitted to and processed by a federal processor contracted by the U.S. Department of Education, and the results are electronically transmitted to the financial aid offices of the schools that you list on your application.

FAFSA is the application used by nearly all colleges and universities to determine eligibility for federal, state and college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, educational loans and work-study programs.

As an option to plan ahead, you can complete the FAFSA4CASTER in the 11th grade. This will help you to estimate how much federal assistance you may be eligible for and what your contribution will be towards your tuition, housing or other expenses.

Go to the FAFSA4CASTER at: www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov

The webpage above connects you to the FAFSA4CASTER. If you are a high school junior and would like to get an early start on your financial aid application, this is where you should begin. The FAFSA4CASTER will give you an estimate of your family’s contribution towards your college expenses. This is good to know so you can apply for scholarships to cover the portion of your educational expenses that your family cannot cover. Also, when you apply for financial aid in the 12th grade, your information will transfer over to the FAFSA application, reducing the amount of time you spend filling it out. If you would like to see an example of a completed FAFSA application, one has been included on pages 29-30.



12TH GRADE PLANNER/CHECKLIST

This is a checklist to use to ensure you are taking steps to prepare for college.

Student Name: _____

Checklist:

- Meet with counselor at least once a month to make sure you are meeting graduation/college admission requirements
- Complete your high school plans
- Take more challenging classes
- Continue extracurricular activities and community service
- Consider taking courses at a local university or community college
- Keep regular study hours
- Attend a college fair
- Keep college and financial aid deadlines in your school agenda
- Retake the SAT and ACT early in the school year
- Complete your Culminating Project
- Request letters of recommendation (at least 3)
- Finalize your Personal Statement/college essay(s)
- Apply to universities, colleges and/or technical schools
- If taking AP/IB classes, ask your counselor about exam dates
- Meet with college representatives once or twice a month
- Apply for scholarships (complete 5 scholarship applications per month)
- Apply for the FAFSA after January 1st (request a pin number)
- Make sure your parents complete their tax returns early
- Decide which college to attend and confirm attendance by May 1st
- Apply for housing at your school of choice
- Register for college Freshmen orientation
- Take college placement tests (if required by your school of choice)



1st Quarter Class	Grade	2nd Quarter Class	Grade	3rd Quarter Class	Grade	4th Quarter Class	Grade
Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials		Counselor Initials	

Activities and Awards: _____

Important Dates:

Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Event: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

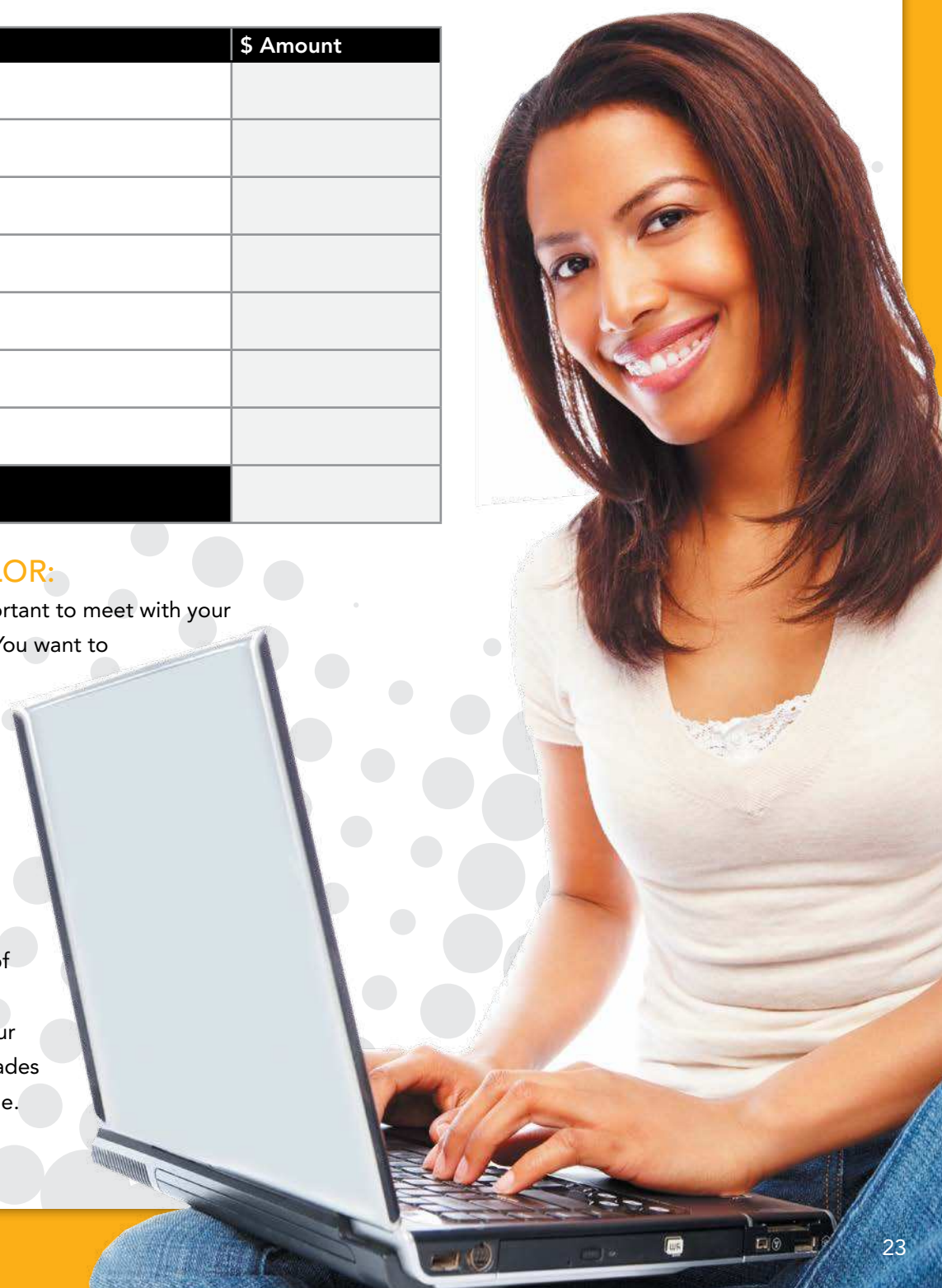
SAT Test Date: _____ **Time:** _____

ACT Test Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Scholarships Received	\$ Amount
TOTAL	

MEET WITH COUNSELOR:

During your senior year, it's important to meet with your counselor as often as possible. You want to know about FAFSA workshops, how to get your monthly scholarship bulletin and when college representatives will be at your school. You will also want to make sure you are on track to graduate and that you have met all the admission requirements for your school(s) of choice. Make sure you maintain ongoing communication with your counselor about your credits, grades and about your journey to college.



UW APPLICATION PROCESS

Preparation for the University of Washington

While the UW looks at many factors when reviewing applications for admission, academic preparation and performance are still primary. Indicators of preparation and performance include:

- An overall strong level of academic achievement as demonstrated by GPA, rigor of curriculum, standardized test scores and academic distinctions
- Taking advantage of college-preparatory courses during high school, such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Running Start, College in the High School or core subjects beyond the minimum required for college entrance
- Taking full academic advantage of your senior year
- Demonstrating a positive grade trend
- Demonstrating habits associated with independent intellectual growth such as self-guided reading, engagement with other cultures or research activities
- Demonstrating exceptional artistic talent and achievement

In addition to academic preparation and performance, personal achievements and characteristics can also indicate promise to benefit from and contribute to the University of Washington. These include:

- Demonstrating a commitment to community service and leadership
- Exercising significant responsibility in a family, community, employment or through activities
- Attaining a college-preparatory education in the face of significant personal adversity, economic disadvantage or disability
- Demonstrating cultural awareness or unique perspectives and experiences
- Demonstrating notable tenacity, insight, originality and creativity

Applying to the University of Washington

Below are the deadlines for applying to the UW. It is absolutely crucial that you include all required documents in your application. A completed application includes an admission application, Writing Section (Personal Statement, Short Response and Journal of Activities & Achievements), \$60 nonrefundable application fee (there are fee waivers for those who qualify) and official test scores from ACT and SAT test centers.



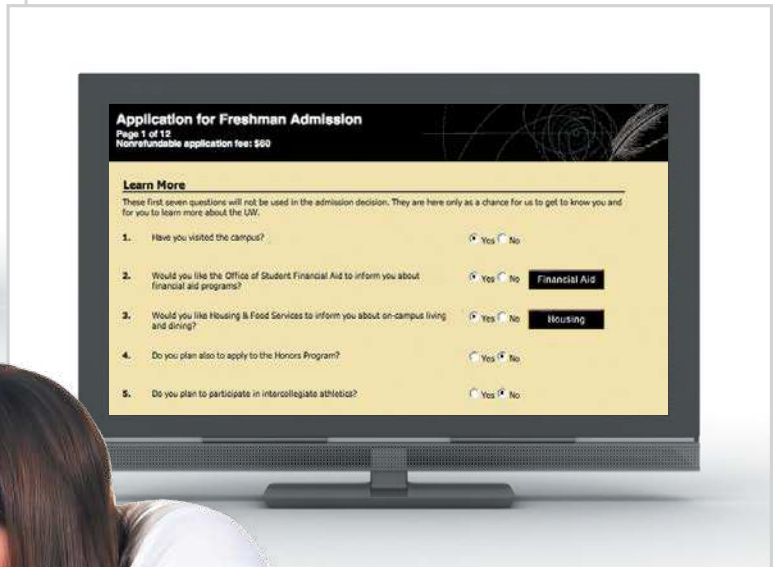
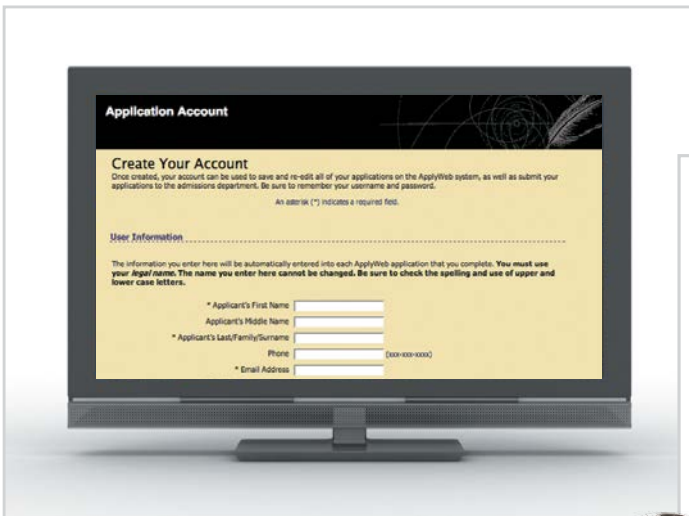
APPLICATION FILING DATES

Begin Applying	Application Deadline	Notification Period	Start School
October 1, 2012	December 1, 2012	March 15, 2013 – March 31, 2013	Late September 2013

The University of Washington expects all admissions applications to be submitted online. If you are not able to submit an online application, you can download, print and send your application in the mail. You can go to www.applyweb.com/apply/uwf to access an online application. It's a long application, but you are able to save your information and come back to complete it at a later time. You can also use your general information (address, career choice, etc.) to transfer to another college application. This will save you time when applying to other colleges.

CREATE YOUR FRESHMAN ACCOUNT AND

START FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION



WRITING SECTION

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

The Personal Statement is a crucial part of your application for admission and for scholarships. This is where you are given the opportunity to write about aspects of your life that are not evident in your academic performance. Some of the examples that the UW gives are: writing about a character-defining moment, the cultural awareness you've developed, a challenge you faced, a personal hardship or a barrier you overcame.

The directions they provide are the following:

Directions: Choose either A or B. (Recommended length: 500-650 words)

- A. Discuss how your family's experience or cultural history enriched you or presented you with opportunities or challenges in pursuing your educational goals.
- B. Tell us a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.

Example of a Personal Statement:

Coming from a family with low education – my dad a high school dropout and my mom a high school graduate – has helped me understand that education plays an important role in my life. When I arrived in the United States at age 10, I found a place where I could be myself, but I also knew that coping with the change was not going to be easy. For the first time, I was afraid of what was expected of me by my school, parents and peers. Having a distinct language barrier was quite challenging, but I never gave up. Even with kids teasing me for my accent, I held a vision of a better life. I remember one time when I did a class presentation, the other students were laughing at me because of the way I spoke. I was humiliated, but I made it my goal to learn English and to erase my accent. As I began to accomplish this goal, I realized that I was not doing this for me, but simply to please other people. Was this how I was going to live my life, only trying to make others happy? My accent is a part of me and I can't change that, but I can change who I choose to be around. Of course, as I continued my education in America, my accent began to disappear without much effort. Soon others started realizing that the way I spoke had nothing to do with who I was. I want to attend the University of Washington because I know that a college education will lead me on the path to the life I want to live. Everything started with a dream in my youth, but with a little bit of encouragement, discipline and determination, I now have the power to reach my dreams and goals. Going to college, especially at the University of Washington, will not only help me to accomplish my goals and dreams, but also to discover new ideas and perspectives about life. Being at the UW, I will not only learn from my classes and my teachers, but also from the diversity of cultures, religions and ethnicities that the UW offers. I will also be able to accomplish my 10-year-old dream of becoming a dentist. I know this is the plan for my career.

SHORT RESPONSE:

The short response allows the University of Washington to become familiar with skills and experiences you have that may contribute to the UW.

The directions they provide are the following:

Directions: Choose one of the following topics and write a short essay. (Recommended length: 250-500 words)

1. The University of Washington seeks to create a community of students richly diverse in cultural backgrounds, experiences and viewpoints. How would you contribute to this community?
2. Describe an experience of cultural difference or insensitivity you have had or observed. What did you learn from it?



FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

What is the FAFSA?

All students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in the 12th grade. The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is the form used by the U.S. Department of Education to determine your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by conducting a "need analysis" based on financial information, such as income, assets and other household information, which you (and your parents if you are a dependent student) will be asked to provide. The form is submitted to and processed by a federal processor contracted by the U.S. Department of Education and the results are electronically transmitted to the financial aid offices of the schools that you list on your application. FAFSA is the application used by nearly all colleges and universities to determine eligibility for federal, state and college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, educational loans and work-study programs.

When to Apply:

Students can apply for financial aid in their senior year of high school. The application opens on January 1st. Students should find out the financial aid deadline for their schools of choice. February 28th is the deadline for most universities. Make sure you apply prior to their deadline to be able to receive the full amount. You can fill out a FAFSA worksheet at www.fafsa.ed.gov to be prepared when applying online. You do not have to wait until your parents file their tax returns; you can apply with an estimate. After your parents file their taxes, make sure you correct your FAFSA application and submit it. The website for the FAFSA application is www.fafsa.ed.gov.

What you need to apply:

- Your Social Security Number (can be found on your Social Security card)
- Your driver's license or state ID (if any)
- Your 2012 W-2 Forms and other records of money earned
- Your (and your spouse's, if you are married) 2012 Federal Income Tax Return
- Your parents' 2012 Federal Income Tax Return (if you are a dependent student)
- Your 2012 untaxed income records (Social Security, child support, TANF or welfare records, etc.)
- Your current bank statement
- Your (and your parents') current business/investment records (mortgage, farm records, stock, etc.)
- Your alien registration or permanent resident card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

A sample of a completed FAFSA application has been included on the following pages.



HUSKY PROMISE

The University of Washington has the Husky Promise that helps pay for UW tuition and related expenses. If a student qualifies for the Pell Grant (determined by FAFSA) then the UW promises to pay full tuition and standard fees for students. The UW will maintain this promise regardless if tuition increases. All you need to do is apply for the FAFSA and the University of Washington financial aid department will determine your eligibility. Students who qualify for the Husky Promise must be enrolled full-time at the UW, be pursuing their first bachelor's degree and must also maintain satisfactory academic progress while at the UW.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Apply after January 1st
- ✓ Check college/university Financial Aid deadlines
- ✓ Fill out the FAFSA worksheet before applying online

SAMPLE COMPLETED FAFSA APPLICATION

STUDENT INFORMATION	
Your full name (last name, first name, middle initial)	GONZALES, JOSE, L.
Your mailing address (street, city, state, zip code)	13423 165TH ST. SEATTLE, WA 98105
Your Social Security Number	XXX-XX-9999
Your date of birth	1/20/1994
Your permanent telephone number	(206) 555-5555
Your driver's license number & state issued (optional)	N/A
Your e-mail address (optional)	N/A
Are you a US citizen? If no, include your Alien Registration Number	U.S. CITIZEN (OR U.S. NATIONAL)
Your marital status & date	SINGLE
Your state of legal residence	WA
Were you a legal resident of this state before January 1, 2007?	YES
Are you male or female?	MALE
Have you been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid? (such as grants, loans or work-study)	NO
Level of schooling your father completed	MIDDLE SCHOOL/JR. HIGH
Level of schooling your mother completed	HIGH SCHOOL
When you begin college, what will be your high school completion status?	HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
Name, city and state of the high school where you received or will receive your high school diploma	RAINER BEACH HIGH SCHOOL, SEATTLE, WA
Will obtain your first bachelor's degree before July 1, 2012?	NO
Your grade level when you begin college	NEVER ATTENDED COLLEGE
Your degree or certificate you will begin working on	1ST BACHELOR'S DEGREE
Interested in Work-study?	YES
Were you born before January 1, 1989?	NO
When you begin college, will you be working on a master's or doctorate program?	NO
Are you on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?	NO
Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?	NO
Do you have children who receive more than half of their support from you?	NO
Do you have dependents (other than children/spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you?	NO
Are your parents deceased? Are you a ward of court? Are you in foster care?	NO
Are you an emancipated minor?	NO
Are you in legal guardianship?	NO
Are you an unaccompanied homeless youth?	NO
Are you at risk of homelessness?	NO

Continued on next page



SAMPLE COMPLETED FAFSA APPLICATION

PARENTS' INFORMATION	
Parents' marital status & date	MARRIED 6/2000
Father's/Stepfather's social security number	XXX-XXX-5555
Father's/Stepfather's last name and first initial	GONZALES, C.
Father's/Stepfather's date of birth	7/22/1966
Mother's/Stepmother's social security number	XXX-XXX-6666
Mother's/Stepmother's last name and first initial	GONZALES, L.
Mother's/Stepmother's date of birth	12/26/1971
Parents' e-mail address	N/A
Parents' state of legal residence	WA
Were your parents legal residents of this state before January 1, 2007?	YES

FINANCIAL INFORMATION	STUDENT	PARENT(S)
Number of people in your household	9	9
Number of people in your household enrolled in college	1	1
Received supplemental security income?	NO	NO
Received food stamps?	YES	YES
Received free/reduced price lunch?	YES	YES
Received TANF?	NO	NO
Received WIC?	NO	NO
Filed income tax return?	NOT GOING TO FILE	ALREADY COMPLETED
Type of tax form used	N/A	IRS 1040A
Eligible to file a 1040A or 1040EZ?	NO	YES
Are you or either of your parents dislocated workers?	NO	NO
Adjusted gross income	N/A	\$24,000
Income tax paid	N/A	\$24,000
Exemptions claimed	N/A	7
Income earned from work	N/A	\$24,000
Total of cash, savings, and checking accounts	N/A	\$3,000
Net worth of current investments	N/A	N/A
Net worth of businesses/investment farms	N/A	N/A
Education credits	N/A	N/A
Child support paid	N/A	N/A
Taxable earnings from need-based employment programs	N/A	N/A
Taxable student grant and scholarship aid	N/A	N/A
Taxable combat pay reported	N/A	N/A
Cooperative education program earnings offered by a college	N/A	N/A
Payments to tax-deferred pensions & savings plans	N/A	N/A
Deductions and payments to self-employed SEP/SIMPLE/Keogh	N/A	N/A
Child support received	N/A	N/A
Tax exempt interest income	N/A	N/A
Untaxed portions of IRA distributions	N/A	N/A
Untaxed portions of pensions	N/A	N/A
Housing, food, & living allowances	N/A	N/A
Veterans non-education benefits	N/A	N/A
Other untaxed income or benefits	N/A	N/A
Money received or paid on your behalf	N/A	N/A

ACCEPTED NOW WHAT?

Confirmation

Once you have been accepted to a university, you need to confirm your attendance by May 1st. If you are accepted into more than one school, it is crucial that you consider every aspect before deciding which one to attend. There is a Confirmation/Orientation fee for most schools; however if you cannot afford the fee, you may be able to apply for a deferment, which delays the fee payment until your first tuition installment comes due. Ask a university representative to see if you qualify for a deferment.

Placement Test

Universities/colleges may require a placement test to assess students' skill levels. The exam places you in English and math courses appropriate to your skill level. Students who take college level courses in high school and pass the course exam with a qualifying score will not be required to take the placement test. Talk to a university representative to determine if you need to take the placement exam.

Student Account

A student account will be created once you have confirmed your attendance to a university. The student account is where your funds (scholarships and financial aid) will be deposited. Your tuition payments, housing expenses (if staying in dorms) and other required fees will be withdrawn from your student account, and the remaining balance is yours to keep. It is recommended that you save as much money as possible for emergencies or other unexpected expenses.

Housing

Deciding where to stay while at college is important because there is a cost involved. Some universities require you to stay in dorms for your first year because they want you to meet other students and familiarize yourself with the campus. Another option is to stay in fraternity or sorority housing. Of course, you first need to be accepted into the fraternity or sorority before you can move in. You also have the option of renting a nearby house or apartment. When you live off-campus, you are able to have friends or relatives stay with you and share the cost. Remember; before deciding on a place to stay, make sure you are able to afford it. For more information about UW housing, visit their website at www.hfs.washington.edu.

Student Organizations

Universities and colleges have many student organizations to choose from, including various clubs, sororities, fraternities and/or academic interest groups. A word of advice: research the student organizations and see which ones spark your interest before you decide to join. Most universities schedule an event at the beginning of fall quarter to inform freshmen about the school's various student organizations. Try to select a few, but don't overload yourself. Sometimes when students get too involved in extracurricular activities, they fall behind in their coursework. For more information about the UW's student organizations, visit their website at www.depts.washington.edu/sao/rso.php.

UW ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Undergraduate Advising: General Advisors explain requirements and procedures and help you plan for your major. College and department advisers can introduce you to opportunities in each program, including internships, undergraduate research, scholarships and special events.

Counseling Center: Provides personal and career counseling, study skills assistance, referrals and other services.

Career Center: Provides career and job search counseling, job listings and career fairs. They also offer workshops on resume writing, interviewing, job offer and salary negotiation, internships and more.

Instructional Center: Provides academic tutoring, workshops and study skills such as test-taking tips, note taking, time management and speed-reading.

Ethnic Cultural Center (ECC): Provides underrepresented and minority students with resources, including student advising, organizational skills, leadership development and program referrals.

Libraries: Have computer labs, tutoring services, books, articles, journals, etc.

Preparing Your Family – One of the hardest parts of going to college is preparing your family about you moving away. It is difficult for some families to make a separation, so the best way to approach your family is to let them know why you are going to college and how family connections will continue. Also, having your family visit the campus will help relieve the stress of you being alone. If it helps, have a college representative talk to your parents so they can answer any questions your parents may have. You are going to make a huge impact on your family by going to college. You'll open doors for your siblings because of the success you will make in life.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Confirm attendance by May 1st
- ✓ Compare housing options and cost
- ✓ Research student organizations before you select one
- ✓ Utilize academic resources
- ✓ Have your parents talk to a college representative

IMPORTANT UW CONTACTS

Admissions Information / Campus Visit	(206) 543-9686
Disabled Student Services	(206) 543-8924
Financial Aid.....	(206) 543-6101
Housing & Food Services.....	(206) 543-4059
Intercollegiate Athletics	(206) 543-2210
Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity.....	(206) 543-5715
New Student Programs.....	(206) 543-4905
Registrar	(206) 543-5378
Student Activities Office	(206) 543-2380
Student Fiscal Services.....	(206) 543-4694
University Bookstore	(206) 634-3400

Website: www.washington.edu/students/contacts.html

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